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President: Mr. Palma Cerna (Vice-President) (Honduras)

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In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Palma Cerna (Honduras), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*)

(c) Development Cooperation Forum (*continued*) (E/2016/65)

Session I "Supporting national efforts to achieve the full ambition of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind"

1. **Mr. Minah** (Sierra Leone), delivering a statement on behalf of the keynote speaker, Mr. Conteh, Minister of State II of Finance and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, said that the first year of the Sustainable Development Goals would be crucial to ending poverty globally and increasing prosperity for all. If followed, the new policy of putting first those furthest behind would lead to unprecedented results. Programme delivery methods would need to be re-engineered at the national, regional and global levels in order to achieve results. New cooperation tools would also be needed to achieve the desired outcomes. Those tools should be evidence-based and guided by well-defined principles of development engagement.

2. Additional funding was needed for least developed and fragile countries such as Sierra Leone, in order to build resilient national systems able to withstand domestic and external shocks and achieve comprehensive structural transformation. In addition, greater attention should be paid to strengthening domestic institutions to ensure sustainable financing. Proper targeting of resources should be accompanied by state-of-the-art monitoring mechanisms. That would affect all aspects of development cooperation, including resource channelling from North to South, South to South and within national delivery systems.

3. Blended financing instruments must be put to use as part of an effort to encourage innovative financing. The issue was not necessarily one of injecting new capital into constrained economies but of infrastructure that enabled capital flows to reach areas greatly in need. Those structural foundations remained underdeveloped in many least developed countries such as Sierra Leone.

4. Serious enhancements would be required to accommodate new capital injection. Mobile money telephone technology had proven to be a vital tool for socioeconomic exchanges between rural areas and urban centres across the developing world. However, national mobile telecommunications network coverage, currently very limited in some countries, must be expanded to spread the benefits to millions of people in rural areas. Telecommunications networks were crucial, not only for financial transactions but also for social actions, such as disseminating health information in real time, and for facilitating the use of other development products and services.

5. Strengthening institutions and property rights within the least developed countries was critical for mobilizing financing through private sector participation. Public financial management programmes should be strengthened through capacity-building and local revenue mobilization.

6. To ensure increased domestic development financing in the least developed countries, illicit financial flows must be curbed. According to many economic commentators, Africa could receive most of the financing it needed if illicit financial flows in the region, including through commercial activities, drugs, terrorist financing and corruption, were effectively curbed. According to current estimates, some 50 billion dollars were being lost to illicit financial flows in Africa.

7. Other areas where strong cooperation and enhanced local implementation were required included building capacity for the preparation of bankable projects in the least developed countries, supporting weak States in adding value to their products, promoting private sector development and trade, and supporting technologies and innovative partnerships in the least developed countries and around the world.

8. Partnerships relating to climate change, disaster mitigation and adaptation, disease and national disaster surveillance mechanisms, subregional governance initiatives, disaster management and other matters of cross-border and global concern should receive particular attention.

9. There had been frequent references in the high-level political forum on sustainable development to the role of efficient data systems as a key element in

leaving no one behind. Such systems, which were poorly developed in many of the least developed countries, were a prerequisite for any meaningful achievement of the global agenda in those economies.

10. The international community must remain committed to the principles guiding development engagement in fragile States. As the current Chair of the Group of Seven Plus, a signatory to the New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States and Co-Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building, Sierra Leone had a global responsibility in that regard.

11. The world should recommit to promoting the use of country systems and mutual accountability frameworks to provide external assistance in support of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in fragile contexts. The international community should also renew its commitment to the Stockholm Declaration on Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World. The Stockholm Declaration was required to implement the New Deal as a means of ensuring effective delivery of the Goals across all fragile and conflict-affected environments. The current discussions on the role of development cooperation in the implementation of the Goals should generate further inputs and support national implementation.

12. **Mr. Miranda Flamenco** (Deputy Minister of Development Cooperation, El Salvador), panellist, said that there had been Sustainable Development Goals training in El Salvador for civil society leaders, local authorities and national leaders in both the executive and legislative branches of Government. A national sustainable development agenda was currently being established. That involved an analysis of the development plan at country level to determine synergies and similarities in order to structure an approach to the Goals that would enable Salvadorans to take ownership. The final stage would be to establish a national council to include leaders from academia, civil society, the judiciary, the Government and the private sector, in order to monitor implementation of the Goals.

13. Consistency was needed between international and government plans, and clear analysis of the statistical system of El Salvador to determine the living conditions of the population at the start of the process and where the country stood on each of the Goals and to establish how they would be achieved over the course of 15 years. New cooperation would be focused on the Goals, and in particular on supporting structural changes to make them more sustainable.

14. The necessary institutions were in place. Continuity would be necessary, however, as would the participation of citizens in the creation of a national plan. The latter was the sole guarantee of sustainability, regardless of the Government in place. Contact with all sectors of society would be the most effective way to achieve the Goals in a lasting way. The Government had involved the marginalized population, so as to leave no one behind, and there had been 4,500 consultations with public sector leaders.

15. **Mr. Sundaram** (Economist and former Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development at the United Nations), moderator, recalled the need to begin with those who were the furthest behind, which represented a major challenge for all involved.

16. **Mr. Van de Vreken** (Deputy Chief of Staff of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Post, Belgium), panellist, said that official development assistance (ODA) had a comparative advantage over other means of implementation, as the only tool that focused on ending poverty. ODA must therefore be used in a well-targeted and efficient way.

17. The use of ODA must be rethought in line with international trends and the new paradigm. As there were fewer aid-dependent countries than previously, ODA was no longer the main driver of development, except in the least developed countries. ODA must be used more as seed money for innovative financing, and also to support domestic resource mobilization. Although in many developing countries, domestic resource mobilization was still insufficient to eradicate poverty by 2030, less than 0.1 per cent of ODA was currently allocated to support it. More efforts were therefore required. ODA should be used in countries, such as the least developed countries, where the alternatives were insufficient.

18. According to the International Labour Organization, in order to eradicate poverty by 2030, it would be necessary for non-least developed countries to commit 0.3 per cent of their gross domestic product

on an annual basis, with least developed countries themselves committing several times that amount. Otherwise, in 2030 the main pockets of poverty would be situated in the least developed countries.

19. Another important lesson learned was that resources should not be overlooked. As clearly stated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, domestic resource mobilization, improved taxation, remittances, foreign direct investment, trade and private sector development were all part of the equation.

20. While donors were currently exempted from taxes, that should be changed in order to strengthen partner countries' tax systems. There should also be a far greater focus on private sector development in partner countries, especially for small and medium enterprises, which were frequently considered too risky to receive funds from local banks.

21. Innovative financing was also important. Recently, the Government of Belgium, jointly with the International Committee of the Red Cross, had launched a humanitarian impact bond, which included a social investor and outcome funder. The investor and funder had agreed with an implementing agency to set a particular goal for five years hence, with the payout based on the result achieved.

22. A rights-based approach was equally essential. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth and Goal 16 were significant factors, as was democracy. Peaceful societies were a prerequisite for development. Indeed, in his report *In Larger Freedom*, Kofi Annan had said: "We will not enjoy security without development, we will not enjoy development without security, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."

23. Lastly, digitalization for development had received pride of place in the policies of Belgium.

24. **Mr. Sundaram** (Economist and former Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development at the United Nations) said that achieving greater international cooperation on taxation issues had been a major problem over the last decade. A mandate for the United Nations to meet its obligations on greater international tax cooperation was needed.

25. **Ms. Nayar** (Director, Regions Refocus, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), panellist, said that the mission of Regions Refocus was to co-construct progressive, heterodox, feminist policies driven by autonomous civil society movements together with progressive policymakers and regional institutions. In the Caribbean, Regions Refocus was engaged in co-constructing viable policy alternatives to the current and future debt crisis. In Africa, it was working on the Continental Free Trade Area currently being negotiated by the African Union. The objective was to ensure that the new trade agreement fostered meaningful regional integration that contributed to the structural transformation of Africa in order to improve the well-being of farmers, traders, consumers and producers on the continent.

26. The principle of solidarity in development cooperation must be restored. Such cooperation had moved away from serving as public external capital, supplementing the domestic capital of developing countries, becoming instead a lever to implement neoliberal policies to build markets. It no longer supported national development policy choices and had shifted from building needed public infrastructure, including social infrastructure, to providing humanitarian and highly targeted narrow types of aid in sectors that structural adjustment had hurt the most. For example, African States were receiving money to meet the costs of adjusting to the economic partnership agreements, meaning that development aid was flowing towards trade liberalization rather than technical assistance.

27. The original concept of ODA, as solidarity money to top up the public expenditures of developing countries based on their autonomous development planning, must be reclaimed. ODA should not determine macroeconomic or trade policy. While policy autonomy of recipient countries was critical, Governments were accountable to their citizens, who should be involved in national development policy planning and formulation. Autonomous civil society mechanisms must be resourced for effective policy input. The purpose of that was not policy ownership, but policy integrity. Development cooperation must support citizen groups in order to bring public opinion to bear on the choices and actions of Governments. The Goals would never be realized unless policy

formulation was autonomous and citizen participation had integrity.

28. Paradoxically, African civil society groups were unable to raise their own resources, and people at the grassroots level were therefore increasingly unable to articulate their demands. Unless marginalized communities were resourced to articulate their vision, the Goals would never be owned or realized. The Goals could not be implemented on behalf of the marginalized. Resources must support the building of infrastructure for collective organizing that would allow marginalized groups to affect implementation of the Goals.

29. Increasingly, development assistance was being spent in donor countries on the refugee crisis, and less was being spent on autonomous civil society movements in the South. On the one hand, conflicts were causing the refugee crisis, and donors were moving ODA to cope with the so-called humanitarian crisis at home, thereby depriving the countries of origin of ODA and causing further destabilization. On the other hand, so-called defence expenditures were skyrocketing, and civil society and cultural workers who could cultivate empathy and an understanding of cause and effect, and who could hold their Governments to account, were being defunded and silenced.

30. Development cooperation must support development imperatives that were defined regionally as well as nationally. Untied aid had become even more essential, as perhaps the only helpful element in the basket of external capital coming into developing countries. Northern countries must not only fulfil their ODA obligations, but must do so in a way that supported the Goals and also the broader agenda for structural transformation, moving away from the neoliberal policies of the last 30 years and towards the progressive, heterodox feminist policies called for on the ground.

31. **Mr. Osotimehin** (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), panellist, said that the Sustainable Development Goals were indivisible and interrelated and should not be implemented in silos. They were designed to complement each other, and they must be addressed together. That was the only way to ensure that no one was left behind.

32. The whole of society must be involved, which meant that Governments must be open to civil society, and indigenous, sustainable civil society organizations and the private sector must play a role. The Goals would cost far more than what would come from ODA or national budgets. Everyone, including the private sector, must therefore act together. The United Nations could create conditions for Governments to build partnerships in the most transparent and accountable way possible, ensuring national ownership of Government plans and implementation.

33. There was much talk of resources, but little mention of people, who were in fact the most important resource and must be developed to sustain growth and development in countries. In Africa, 60 to 70 per cent of the population was below 35 years of age. Discussions should take place about the kinds of education and health care they needed, and how to ensure their access to entrepreneurship, training and education about sexuality and family planning, so that they could build and sustain prosperity in their countries. In his work with some 30 Governments in Africa, such issues had been a part of planning for the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. Lastly, money recovered from illicit flows should be diverted to train young people, so that they could build and sustain development.

35. **Mr. Sundaram** (Economist and former Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development at the United Nations) said that the General Assembly had recently declared a United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. However, it would be difficult to achieve much progress without a whole-of-society approach and with women in special leadership positions, given their particularly important role in nutrition.

36. **Mr. Alonso Rodríguez** (Professor of Applied Economics, Complutense University of Madrid and member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy), panellist, said that ODA could play an important role in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but that the Agenda clearly went far beyond ODA. Development cooperation would nonetheless remain useful as long as it was explicitly geared towards correcting market asymmetries and promoting sustainable and inclusive development strategies. However, to increase its capacity for supporting the Agenda, several changes

and clarifications were needed. The concept of development cooperation must expand beyond ODA. Until recently, many had identified development cooperation as encompassing only or primarily ODA, but as the number and diversity of providers had increased rapidly, that notion could not be maintained.

37. Together with a colleague, he had defined development cooperation as encompassing all international interventions and activities, public and private, specifically intended to support development through actions that would not be promoted by the market alone. Development cooperation involved correcting market results and failures.

38. Development cooperation was explicitly intended to support national or international development priorities; it was not profit-driven; it discriminated in favour of developing countries; and it was based on cooperative relationships to enhance country ownership. Development cooperation was distinct from financing in that the latter responded exclusively to market criteria, whereas development cooperation included action that did not involve financial transfers. It was no longer only a matter of official finance and was more concerned with the quality of the relationships between partners than with the quantity of resources mobilized.

39. Clear rules for allocating international support were needed. Development cooperation must be comprehensive, complex and differentiated, in line with the multifaceted nature of the 2030 Agenda and the heterogeneity of the Goals. Development cooperation operated on the two related levels of global redistribution and development incentives, levels that were compatible but distinct. Global redistribution was more relevant for poor countries, while development incentives were more important for countries with a higher level of development.

40. Development cooperation was the optimal approach for resource distribution, resting on a decent, reliable system with voluntary international transfers. It was important to maintain conventional rules in order to guarantee an equilibrium between different proposals. That explained the international agreement on maintaining a minimum floor of aid to the least developed countries and other countries with structural vulnerabilities. It was important to maximize the dynamic effects of aid relative to the incentive that it promoted.

41. Finally, development cooperation sought to enhance countries' capacities for promoting inclusive and sustainable development strategies, which might appear incompatible with drawing sharp distinctions between countries based on their per capita gross domestic product. When a country crossed an arbitrary line in per capita income, nothing automatically changed. The logic of 'graduation' was controversial, creating problems with regard to equality. In order to respond to the multidimensional nature of development challenges, a more complex criterion for graduation eligibility must be defined.

42. **Ms. Pham** (Executive Director for Policy, United Nations Foundation), panellist, said that one overriding question during the high-level political forum had been how to assist countries with implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was extremely important not to forget what had been agreed to a year earlier in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including what financing was needed, how to mobilize resources, where such resources would come from and what they would be spent on in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including at the national level.

43. The 2030 Agenda was universal. Application at the national level would call for a shift in political dynamics and in thinking about the uses to which ODA and development cooperation were put. The Agenda was also integrated. The targets and Goals were related to one another, and it was not possible to focus on just one specific area. For instance, the climate agenda must be integrated with the Goals, including institutionally within the United Nations. Work could not be limited to specific ministries or departments operating separately. Focusing on those who were furthest behind, especially women and girls, was the transformational theme of the Goals, and that would have an outsized effect on other areas.

44. At the high-level political forum, it had become clear that there were major data gaps and that investments in statistical data architecture were crucial. If that was not on a proper footing, especially in the first few years, there would be serious difficulties later on. More discussions on statistical capacities were therefore needed.

45. Infrastructure had been a major theme of discussions at the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, including finding ways to leverage public finance towards low-carbon and resilient infrastructure to make gains in economies and transform them.

46. At the same time, institutional corruption must be tackled and institutions strengthened. Institutions that created an enabling environment must be set up to attract foreign investment in the private sector and strengthen the tax system.

47. It was crucial to invest in and pay attention to situations in fragile and conflict-affected States, especially in places where there were protracted crises. It was frequently said that humanitarian and refugee funding might detract from development assistance. However, it was important to keep in mind the long-term trajectory, considering where those who were furthest behind in conflict areas would be residing and planning those investments now.

48. **Mr. Sundaram** (Economist and former Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development at the United Nations) said that in the past the emphasis had been on what was known in the development world as "low-hanging fruit". However, the Sustainable Development Goals had been designed to address the difficult questions rather than defer them.

49. **Ms. Matamoros** (Honduras) said that her country had the political will to carry out the actions necessary to leave no one behind, but political will was not always the missing ingredient needed to achieve deep change. Political intelligence was necessary, as was a realistic, objective and clear implementation strategy. The success of the 2030 Agenda would involve recognizing domestic realities. The principle of shared responsibility must begin within nations, with citizens' and leaders' awareness and identification by them of virtues and weaknesses. It must also go beyond borders and required joint work with other countries.

50. The strategic plan of Honduras was aligned with the 2030 Agenda, based on a national plan for 2010-2022 and a country vision for 2010-2038. A public policy aimed at achieving a better life and equality had been devised to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, based on the Sustainable Development Goals. It focused on people in extreme poverty, who had been the object of a census and were recorded in a single participants' registry. To date, the programme had benefited 400,000 people.

51. Honduras was one of seven pilot countries in a programme to build capacities through development, based on the Sustainable Development Goals. Middle-income countries, where 70 per cent of poverty in the world was to be found, required differentiated attention from the United Nations development system. Those countries had increased their income but still faced huge challenges and vulnerability. The diversity of national situations must be considered, and the definition of poverty should go beyond per capita income.

52. Climate change and extreme forced migrations meant that the current historical moment was not an easy one. Leaders would have to work together with citizens who were active, critical, informed, impatient and aware of their rights, but whose responsibilities were not being recognized. Honduras therefore had a domestic plan in place to take effective measures and to implement what had been learned in the current discussions. No country should use social, economic and environmental challenges as an excuse.

53. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) said that while the Sustainable Development Goals were supposed to build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there was still unfinished business with regard to the latter. He wondered whether the ambitious 2030 Agenda, with its integrated and indivisible Goals, could be achieved within the time frame established. He also wondered how Member States could work together, with the support of the United Nations and other relevant non-State actors, to curb illicit financial flows, and whether it was possible to truly commit to curbing those flows.

54. South Africa, like other countries, was trying to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into its domestic legislation. Thought must now be given to communication strategies to ensure that no one was left behind.

55. As had been noted, ODA remained unique and important, and ODA commitments must be met. The concept of development cooperation was broadening, but ODA remained a global public good.

56. **Ms. Ghartey** (Observer for Ghana) said that development cooperation had not delivered on its mandates. Cooperation was usually driven by supply, with various strings attached that did not necessarily benefit recipient countries. Development partners should not continue with business as usual, while expecting different results. The "carrot and stick" approach, which had been ineffective in the past, should not be a feature of the Sustainable Development Goals era. In development cooperation, one size did not fit all. Room for adaptation was called for, so that development partners and developing countries could determine their own parameters. It was important to respect country-level priorities and align with them. In the past, development cooperation had hurt the vulnerable.

57. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union and its member States were determined to play a full part in the 2030 Agenda. The European Union global strategy on security foreign policy set out the strategic direction for the full range of external action, taking implementation of the 2030 Agenda fully into account. The core development policy of the European Union would be revised, based on a new European development consensus that would align European Union development cooperation policy with the 2030 Agenda. A public consultation on the issue was under way, and all views would be welcomed as the initial proposal was being prepared.

58. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States had agreed to mobilize all means of implementation, including financial, non-financial, public, private, domestic and international. It was necessary to consider how development cooperation could best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Circumstances would differ from country to country. Therefore, differentiated partnerships with countries at all stages of development were needed. National ownership would be particularly important.

59. **Mr. Bastien** (Observer for Haiti) said that each country faced different problems in meeting the 2030 Agenda. In Haiti, political instability made it difficult to achieve progress. There were also grave social and economic problems, with limited resources owing largely to a drop in oil prices. Some infrastructure projects had been suspended because the Government was having difficulties in securing needed resources. The end of electoral assistance one year earlier meant that Haiti must cover the cost of elections itself, something it had not done in decades. Austerity measures would have economic repercussions for the country. A lack of infrastructure investment also had consequences for Haiti, as did the fact that it had been receiving much of its support from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Millions of people would be left behind in Haiti because of an unwillingness to help and to consider their problems. The United Nations must therefore consider its situation and assist in finding genuine solutions.

60. **Mr. Osotimehin** (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund) said that countries must put their resources to work. ODA should be set up so that it worked within countries and with the country's leadership. It was up to that leadership to place those who had been left behind, especially women and girls, at the centre of development.

61. **Mr. Miranda Flamenco** (Deputy Minister of Development Cooperation, El Salvador) said that the unmet commitments in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development had been repeated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The concept of development cooperation covered a wider field than ODA. Greater solidarity was thus needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

Session II "Aligning development cooperation to contribute to the different aspects of the 2030 Agenda"

62. **Mr. Choi** Jong-moon (Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea), delivering the keynote address, said that there had been a shift in the global development paradigm that must be taken into account in development cooperation. The Sustainable Development Goals were more ambitious than the MDGs, so their implementation would require an unprecedented amount of resources. Furthermore, there was now a broad range of stakeholders, including private sector actors, non-governmental organizations and philanthropic groups. It was also significant that

the 2030 Agenda emphasized the links between the economy, the environment and society.

63. To take those developments into account, multi-stakeholder partnerships should be promoted with a view to fostering the sharing of knowledge and technological resources to address socioeconomic problems in developing countries. Since ODA was not sufficient to achieve the objective of leaving no one behind, it would be essential to mobilize all available resources through multi-stakeholder partnerships and public policies that provided incentives for the private sector to include the poor in their production chains. For example, Vietnamese chili pepper farmers had successfully been incorporated into the production chain of a major food processing company in his country. Given the broad scope of the 2030 Agenda, it would also be necessary to take a whole-of-government approach to development through coordination and collaboration between ministries, even where there were conflicting interests and priorities.

64. In addition, developing countries should take ownership of development efforts, and their partners must align their work with national priorities and results frameworks. In that regard, his Government had developed a country partnership strategy that involved consulting with the Governments of developing countries to identify priority sectors for action.

65. **Mr. Sriskanadarajah** (Secretary-General, CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation), moderator, said that civil society organizations were equal partners in sustainable development efforts. The Development Cooperation Forum provided a space to discuss how practices could change to ensure the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

66. **Mr. Nebebe** (Director of the United Nations Agencies and Regional Economic Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia), panellist, said that the 2030 Agenda had been taken into account in his country's five-year development plan. His Government was placing a particular emphasis on the environmental aspects of the Agenda, as those had proved to be a weak point in his country's implementation of the MDGs. His Government had developed a policy matrix with indicators and annual targets for each sector and had established monitoring institutions. Sectors that were assigned targets also had access to funds from the national budget to implement actions to achieve them. The Government had developed a strategy for the establishment of a climate-resilient green economy and had adopted a multisectoral approach to its implementation by giving responsibility to both the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

67. **Mr. Massina** (Secretary-General, Government of Togo and member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration), panellist, said that the 15-year suspension of development aid to his country had left it in a precarious position. Furthermore, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would require vast resources while ODA was likely to stagnate or decrease. His Government had therefore worked to reduce its debt and rebuild the economy in order to attract the partners needed to supplement its domestic resources for development. The vast majority of his country's external debt had been cancelled through the Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and his Government had also implemented a strategy to reduce its internal debt. Additional measures to strengthen and promote confidence in the national economy included a reform of the tax collection system and the simplification of the process for setting up a company.

68. Thanks to those efforts, his Government was now establishing relationships with development partners. It only worked with partners that aligned themselves with the national priorities and whose support would further the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. His country was seeking to work with a diverse range of partners, including through South-South cooperation and the involvement of the Togolese diaspora.

69. **Ms. Laatu** (Deputy Director-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland), panellist, said that her Government was bringing its development cooperation strategy into line with the 2030 Agenda. As part of its overall objective of eradicating extreme poverty and reducing inequality, it gave particular attention to the promotion of the rights of women and girls; the strengthening of economies in order to improve employment levels, livelihood opportunities and well-being; the establishment of democratic and well-functioning

societies with proper taxation systems, food security, access to water and energy; and the sustainable use of natural resources.

70. Finnish non-governmental organizations were active participants in discussions on the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Such organizations were not obliged to align themselves with the Government's priority sectors, but they were required to take a human rights-based approach in order to receive government funding. To promote alignment with the priorities of developing countries, priority for funding was given to organizations that worked in partnership with civil society organizations on the ground. Private sector partners were also expected to act in accordance with the principles of Finnish development cooperation policy.

71. There was still unfinished work to be done on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, especially regarding the alignment of aid with the priorities and systems of developing countries. In particular, better use should be made of indicators of progress such as country results frameworks.

72. **Mr. Shearman** (Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and former United Kingdom High Commissioner to Uganda), panellist, said that his country was working to clarify its cooperation for development objectives and to adopt a whole-of-government approach. The commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of the country's gross national income (GNI) on ODA, which was enshrined in domestic law and would not be affected by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, had not been without political controversy. It was therefore hugely important for the Government to maintain political and public support for that level of spending by ensuring transparency, focusing on results and making the purpose of the spending clear.

73. The Government's aid strategy, which was useful for communicating with the domestic audience and also established the basis for policy coherence, contained four clear objectives, which were in line with the Sustainable Development Goals: tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable; strengthening global peace, security and governance; promoting global prosperity; and strengthening resilience and response to crises, including by linking humanitarian and development efforts to better respond to long-running crises. To align its efforts with the priorities of recipient countries, his Government delegated a significant amount of responsibility to local offices and sought to work with Governments and other partners on the ground to identify shared outcomes. It was vital to focus on outcomes rather than processes.

74. **Mr. Campolina** (Chief Executive Officer, Action Aid), panellist, said that Governments should move from rhetoric to action in order to achieve the aims of the 2030 Agenda. They should also refrain from actions that would impede the implementation of the Agenda, such as signing tax treaties that undermined the mobilization of internal resources. Overcoming inequality would require a redistribution of resources and equal access to land and decent work. Issues such as the gender pay gap and unpaid care must also be addressed.

75. To achieve those aims, effective country leadership and space for civil society and civic engagement would be essential. Taxation systems must be made adequate to fund high-quality public services. It was unfortunate that a multilateral agreement on tax had not been reached at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, but civil society organizations would continue to advocate for a United Nations global tax body to establish international rules to prevent tax evasion, in particular by multinational corporations.

76. South-South cooperation had the potential to provide effective solutions to inequality. In addition, States should uphold the principles of accountability, participation and country leadership, even during the current migration crisis. Trade and investment policies should also be adapted to enable the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Civil society would continue to mobilize communities and raise awareness of the Goals with a view to ensuring their full implementation.

77. **Mr. Nebebe** (Director of the United Nations Agencies and Regional Economic Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia) said that to ensure that no one was left behind, development cooperation actors should target resources where the need was greatest. Moreover, development cooperation should shift

towards programme-based approaches such as long-term budget support and pooled funding, which would accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A benefit of pooled funding was that it could also bring together the knowledge of partners from various sectors. His country aimed to have a single development plan, a single budget and a single monitoring mechanism for all of its development efforts.

78. **Mr. Motter** (Observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that good governance was essential for development cooperation, but parliaments tended to receive less support than ministries, leaving them less capable of overseeing various essential aspects of development cooperation, in particular the budget process. The problem might stem from the fact that donors dealt with Governments, which were perhaps more interested in developing their own capacities than in strengthening the oversight functions of parliaments. He asked how donors could allocate resources so that all institutions responsible for ensuring accountability and transparency received sufficient support.

79. **Mr. Sarufa** (Observer for Papua New Guinea) said that his country had adopted a medium-term development cooperation framework that its partners must respect. Assistance should be channelled through the national budget to ensure coherence between the efforts of national authorities and their partners. Instead of bypassing national systems and processes that they regarded as weak, development partners should help Governments to strengthen them. Priority areas for his country included human development, equality, participation and the responsible management of the environment and cultural heritage.

80. **Mr. O'Neill** (United Nations Development Programme) said that an ambitious whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to sustainable development planning and implementation would be needed to ensure that billions of dollars of development resources could attract, mobilize and channel the trillions of dollars of investment from public, private, national and global sources that would be needed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

81. To that end, the United Nations should support policy and institutional reforms designed to manage contributions from a broader set of development actors and a wider range of sources of financing. The Organization should also promote transparency with regard to flows of financial and non-financial resources, which would provide insight into the effects of policy incentives. Lastly, it should work to ensure that all sectors of society were involved in development planning at the national and subnational levels, including through policy and legislative measures aimed at creating an enabling environment and building the capacities of stakeholders.

82. The United Nations was working to achieve those aims, for example, by supporting the Government of Mozambique in the development of an international cooperation policy and implementation strategy that would strengthen cooperation with all its partners. It was also assisting the Government of Ethiopia in developing and strengthening a structure to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues with trade unions and civil society organizations in order to improve the alignment of business and development objectives, promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, and encourage corporate social and environmental responsibility.

83. **Mr. Nebebe** (Director of the United Nations Agencies and Regional Economic Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia) said that his Government was working to build partnership with all stakeholders so that they could be fully and meaningfully involved in the planning, review, monitoring and evaluation processes. The Government was also working to improve the accessibility and reliability of its data and information, including by working with partners to develop a national statistical system to track progress on development indicators.

84. **Mr. Massina** (Secretary-General, Government of Togo and member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration) said that his Government was bringing various separate programmes together within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Financial and non-financial cooperation would be accepted only if it was in line with the national priorities defined under that framework. His Government would also do more to ensure good programming at the national and local levels, including by putting systems and staff in place for the generation of reliable data.

85. **Ms. Laatu** (Deputy Director-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland) said that her country intended to make even greater efforts to help developing countries establish sound knowledge bases. Responding to the comments from the observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, she said that her Government's development cooperation work included support for parliamentary oversight.

86. **Mr. Shearman** (Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and former United Kingdom High Commissioner to Uganda) said that his Government would mould its approach to the provision of financial aid into a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach that used a wide range of instruments to support partner Governments in the most effective way. Aid should be provided in a transparent manner in order to allow Governments to take those resources into account in their programming and budgeting processes, even if the aid was not delivered in the form of direct budget support. There should also be detailed discussions enabling partner Governments to determine where their priorities aligned and to design flexible programmes that could be adapted as alignment increased. His Government was committed to directing its ODA where it was most needed, could do most good and could be most catalytic, including places beset by fragility and conflict.

87. **Mr. Campolina** (Chief Executive Officer, Action Aid) said that his organization was committed to bottom-up mobilization. A human rights-based approach to development involved respecting the right of rights-holders, including civil society organizations, to organize themselves and hold all actors to account.

88. The international community should consider whether existing accountability instruments were effective or were in fact creating problems. The accountability system should be based on the needs of those living in poverty and exclusion. However, many tools were biased towards the needs of donors and, as such, undermined or failed to take due account of the factors necessary for achieving systemic change. His organization agreed with the fundamental principles of concepts such as results-based management and value for money, but in practice their implementation often failed to benefit those living in poverty. Stakeholders should be held accountable primarily for how they met the needs of the persons they were supposed to be helping.

89. **Mr. Sriskanadarajah** (Secretary-General, CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation) said that the support expressed for multi-stakeholder partnerships was encouraging, but the deteriorating conditions for civil society in many parts of the world gave cause for concern. The emphasis on data, as the area where the greatest alignment could be achieved most quickly, was also welcome. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development provided a way to ensure that data systems were interoperable and that all stakeholders contributed to the data revolution that would enable more effective cooperation for development.

The meeting was suspended at 5.40 p.m. and resumed at 5.45 p.m.

Session III "Southern partners advancing mutual learning and envisioning the contribution of South-South cooperation for sustainable development"

90. **Mr. Roy** (Director of the National Institute for Public Finance Policy, Ministry of Finance, India), delivering the keynote address, said that throwing money or even, unfortunately, ideas at developing countries was not the solution. The countries of the Global South needed access to such development instruments as finance, technology and quality capacities and institutions, which remained restricted. South-South cooperation was therefore highly relevant as it had originally been conceived: a political attempt to bring together developing countries of the Global South to address questions of access. South-South cooperation was political not altruistic, nor was it a complement to ODA.

91. While concessional finance remained important, the biggest financial challenge was obtaining access to non-concessional finance in the areas where the countries of the South needed it. The most critical barrier to access to finance was a lack of infrastructure. Infrastructure was necessary for development and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals because it affected climate change, poverty and equitability.

92. However, infrastructure development required access to long-term finance, which rested largely in the hands of sovereign wealth funds and insurance companies located in the North. While investment in the South should be attractive to such companies in view of the better interest rates offered, the barrier euphemistically called "regulatory risk" prevented that market mechanism from functioning. Regulators quantified regulatory risk based on countries' institutional and political credibility. Although the private sector was entitled to do what it wanted, the Council should acknowledge the need to debate the legitimacy of such practices, because they were choking access to non-concessional finance.

93. Through South-South cooperation, countries of the Global South were seeking to address the lack of access to infrastructure, for example with the International Solar Energy Alliance, an initiative launched at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Through the Alliance, which was a political attempt to solve the access problem, and not a replacement for ODA, countries which benefited from a lot of sun would come together to provide renewable energy across the Global South.

94. The Alliance was also a response to the technological barrier. If citizens of the Global South wanted to protect the environment and use the most efficient batteries and solar systems available instead of burning coal, they were obliged to use intellectual property owned by 5 of the 10 richest countries in the world. Between 25 and 30 per cent of the revenue from the use of that technology reverted to those countries, making access to technology political, and an issue which the Council should address.

95. The third barrier to access related to capacity: the ability to take charge of one's own affairs and deliver the expectations of the electorate in a manner that addressed the political development mandate, which was a country-specific process. Capacity must be created by people who understood that political context dictated what was feasible and that cultural, institutional, political and historical specifics determined what kind of capacity could work. For example, an Indian programme had brought together a community of students from across the developing South to deliver technological solutions, one outcome of which was the establishment of a centre for information technology in Ghana to support the development of information technology capacity in Africa. The idea behind South-South capacity-building cooperation was not that a country with insufficient processing capacity to make the best use of its natural resources should seek assistance from a country that excelled in that area. Instead, that country should be helped to develop its own capacity.

96. South-South cooperation could support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by facilitating access to finance, technology and capacity. It was a weapon of the weak, however, and would remain so until powerful financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank decided to change their approach. If South-South cooperation was considered a political tool to address access, it would support implementation of the Goals. However, that would not be the case if South-South cooperation was viewed through the traditional development cooperation lens and the scepticism regarding its political expediency continued. That would be a great disservice to future generations, in both the North and the South.

97. **Ms. Casar** (Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico), moderator, said that the discussion would address the contribution that South-South cooperation could make to sustainable development, and its political and practical implications; how partners in the South could ensure the relevance and efficiency of capacity reinforcement and technology transfer; and what lessons could be learned from South-South cooperation.

98. **Mr. Ayante** (Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Somalia), panellist, describing how South-South cooperation could support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, said that national institutions should cooperate horizontally, for instance through knowledge and information sharing by government agencies. At the international level, countries could share what they had learned from the implementation of the MDGs. Cooperation between the civil societies and private sectors of the countries of the Global South would be vital. Research should be conducted to identify the

barriers to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals across the South, and to find solutions.

99. Secondly, different levels of government should cooperate vertically. Such cooperation would be similar in many countries; therefore countries could learn from each other. Policies and actions should be streamlined.

100. Thirdly, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the targets under them, should be tailored to respond to each country's unique context.

101. Lastly, transformative action was needed to coordinate and streamline action across States for optimal implementation. The Sustainable Development Goals provided the countries of the Global South with an opportunity to advance their collective interest and learn from each other.

102. **Mr. Almino** (Director, Brazilian Agency for Cooperation), panellist, said that South-South cooperation would be one of the supporting pillars of the 2030 Agenda. Governments of the South involved in cooperation should remain true to the principles of South-South cooperation, for instance by respecting other Governments' policy space in line with the non-prescriptive nature of South-South cooperation.

103. The original conception of South-South cooperation should not change; countries would follow diverse paths and focus on their strengths. Divisions regarding what constituted South-South cooperation were not productive and might prevent developing countries from understanding its dynamics and vitality.

104. Collecting and organizing data on South-South cooperation was a challenge. Consequently, Governments had often relied on information gathered by other actors, which was sometimes collected for a specific purpose and focused on a single aspect of South-South exchanges, such as monetary quantification. The use of such data resulted in under-accounting, unilateral segregation of data and inaccurate classification of South-South cooperation.

105. In addition to monetary transfers, South-South partnerships also entailed knowledge-exchange, technology transfer, resilience-building, development of human capital and capacity-building for the development, implementation and evaluation of public policies. The quality, structure and outcomes of South-South cooperation should remain in focus.

106. Developing countries had understood the importance of coming together to provide long-term financing mechanisms to support growth and development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda stated that investment in a resilient and sustainable infrastructure was a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. New financial institutions such as the New Development Bank of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS countries) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank had been created as a result of the insufficient resources offered by traditional development banks to meet increasing demands. Lastly, the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 2018 would be an opportune occasion for a renewed focus on South-South cooperation.

107. **Mr. Chediek** (Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation), panellist, said that the 2030 Agenda embodied a return to a comprehensive vision of development. For many years international development cooperation efforts had focused on the consequences of a lack of development: poverty, exclusion and social problems. The 2030 Agenda brought a renewed focus on economic growth and investment, requiring a broader range of cooperation initiatives. Certain countries of the Global South had demonstrated that it was possible to achieve sustainable economic and social development. There was extraordinary capital in the South that would allow countries, working together, to build a new sustainable world. Improved regional coordination mechanisms meant that countries which had previously looked to the North for ideas were now collaborating and learning from each other. Triangular cooperation, involvement in which was a worthwhile investment for developed countries, had also blossomed since its inception in 1993.

108. There were political and institutional problems with South-South cooperation: many poor developing countries found it difficult to contribute resources to other countries, and development cooperation institutions were designed to receive cooperation, not provide it. Those difficulties must be transcended by

demonstrating that South-South cooperation generated excellent results. The international system, developed to channel North-South cooperation, needed to be revamped. The United Nations system had made significant progress in that regard. The fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would indeed provide a good opportunity to renew the commitment to South-South cooperation and develop a new matrix for its analysis.

109. Peru's conditional cash transfer programme was illustrative of both the potential of South-South cooperation and the limitations with regard to measuring impact. Inspired by a Brazilian model, the Government of Peru had launched a programme which essentially involved groups of experts from the two countries exchanging knowledge. Despite minimal monetary investment, making it difficult to quantify its impact, the initiative had lifted more than 2 million people out of poverty.

110. **Mr. Ziller** (Germany) said that ODA remained important, but new forms of development cooperation were playing an increasingly significant role. South-South cooperation enabled countries to learn from their peers in order to overcome barriers to access, and made a considerable financial contribution to development. However, the exact amount of its contribution was not measured.

111. "South-South cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals" should be defined since it was unclear whether any action between countries of the South would qualify, or whether an action must specifically contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Goals in a quantifiable way. Specific and transparent criteria, like those used to qualify ODA, would be beneficial. Analysis of exactly how actions contributed to the achievement of the Goals would make it possible to quantify the impact of South-South cooperation.

112. It was also necessary to determine what was meant by "the South". Nine countries belonging to the Group of 77 and China were among the top 35 economies according to the country rankings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, while 12 to 14 European Union countries were not. He therefore wondered whether it still made sense to classify development cooperation initiatives implemented by low-ranking European countries as North-South cooperation, or programmes created by the top 10 countries of the South as South-South cooperation. It might be better instead to focus simply on which countries were capable of helping others, without reference to geography.

113. **Mr. Gamboa** (Observer for Colombia) said that assessing the results of South-South cooperation was critical. Qualitative and quantitative elements could not be measured using one system. The Agency was working to define qualitative indicators, such as level of knowledge shared, visibility and image generated, quantity or capacity of networks generated, alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, and capacity of projects to reduce exclusion. It was necessary to move away from exchanges, although they were positive, towards a project-based concept of South-South cooperation. Despite the associated challenges, South-South cooperation had enormous potential, and its qualitative and quantitative value added should be analysed.

114. **Mr. Bayley Angeleri** (Observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that South-South cooperation should be comprehensive, country-owned and strategic. In the spirit of voluntary bilateral cooperation, to overcome common development challenges, his Government had established PetroCaribe, an energy agreement which facilitated Caribbean countries' fair and favourable access to energy. In the 11 years since its launch, PetroCaribe had not only increased access to energy, but had contributed to economic and social transformation. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation should be strengthened to be better positioned to promote such voluntary processes. With regard to access to finance, he asked the panellists how the costs of financial transactions between countries could be reduced.

115. **Ms. Chartsuwan** (Observer for Thailand) said that South-South cooperation should complement, and not replace, North-South cooperation. Thailand needed to develop its science and technology capacity, and build research and development centres. The Government of Turkey was to be commended for offering to host the United Nations Technology Bank for least developed countries. Still more could be done to share technology. Stronger policy coordination between Headquarters and the regional commissions

was needed. In addition, the coordination and support role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation should be enhanced. Sharing best practice, especially countries' unique approaches to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, was an important component of South-South cooperation. In that connection, various countries had successfully applied Thailand's "sufficiency economy" approach in the areas of capacity-building, agriculture and commodity development.

116. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union was committed to meeting its ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNI within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and to allocating to least developed countries 0.15 per cent of GNI in the short term, and 0.20 per cent in the long term. Developing countries should take ODA into consideration when setting policies. The keynote speaker had made an important point in stating that South-South cooperation was political. In addition to North-South barriers to access, however, trade barriers between countries of the Global South hindered development. He therefore asked what kind of political response was needed.

117. **Mr. Levaggi** (International Labour Organization) said that development cooperation was in flux; since 1978 it had evolved from consisting of technical assistance to the current South-South and triangular cooperation model. Its categorization depended not only on the actors involved, but on the type of cooperation, with the new model shaped by notions such as solidarity, ethical imperative, respect, listening, cooperation between peers and not imposing agendas. While the International Labour Organization had had very positive South-South cooperation experiences, outdated perceptions of development cooperation remained to be overcome. Institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America and the New Development Bank of the BRICS countries were becoming key players in multilateral South-South cooperation financing. His organization had been working with a range of countries to promote decent work and translate experience into concrete results.

118. **Ms. Palomares** (Reality of Aid) said that enhancing policy coherence and accountability was crucial for ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of South-South cooperation. In practice, that entailed three elements. First, South-South cooperation must be guided by solidarity, mutuality and equality. The wishes of the receiving country needed to be respected and the relationship needed to be balanced and equal, with both partners responsible for the outcomes of the development project. Secondly, there must be democratic country ownership. It was not only Governments that should be active in partnerships: all the stakeholders whom projects were designed to benefit should be fully engaged and have ownership of projects. Thirdly, a rights-based approach must be taken. All too often human rights were not taken into consideration in the approach to development cooperation, when respect for human rights was one of the foundational pillars of South-South cooperation. Projects must conform to all relevant international and national human rights standards, and ensure the rights of women, indigenous peoples and other excluded groups.

119. **Mr. Roy** (Director of the National Institute for Public Finance Policy, Ministry of Finance, India) said that it was not per capita income that defined the Global South, but a shared history of lack of access and problems such as middle-income traps. Emerging economies which currently had high per capita income levels had contended with the same problems that currently faced poorer countries of the South, meaning that poorer countries could learn from their experiences.

120. With regard to measuring outcomes, he said that countries of the South were operating in a chaotic context, without the luxury of access and time for quantification. While measurement was important, the priority was assessing whether South-South cooperation fulfilled its mandate of addressing unequal access. If its results were to be measured, a new matrix was needed.

121. Concerning the kind of political solution needed, he said that countries of the Global South were able to work together to achieve political solutions despite their political differences: India and China had collaborated to establish the New Development Bank, for example. The failure of the major multilateral financial institutions to reform meant that countries of the South must resort to the second best option, the new alternative financing institutions.

122. **Mr. Gaouaoui** (Algeria) said that his country's development plan was predicated on the idea that the South could develop only on the basis of equitability, social progress, respect for sovereignty and equal economic relations. His Government had integrated South-South cooperation into its development strategy, which extended beyond Algeria, including regional and even international objectives. South-South cooperation thereby had a role in achieving Algeria's international goals of structural transformation and reinforcement of progress, particularly in Africa.

123. The Government had established inclusive partnerships for concrete action in support of both sustainable economic interaction between countries of the South and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was also providing assistance to poorer countries. Since 2010, for instance, it had cancelled the debts of 16 countries, amounting to US$ 1.6 billion, in order to foster regional economic and social development.

124. Convinced that its own development was impossible without that of its immediate neighbours, Algeria was cooperating with countries in the region in the areas of trade, tourism and investment. He asked the panel how lessons from South-South cooperation could best be shared through the Council and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

125. **Ms. Massobrio** (International Trade Union Confederation) said that South-South cooperation had unique potential to redress the historical asymmetries between North and South and expand global cooperation governance. Three conditions were needed for its success. First, South-South cooperation must be democratically owned, with civil society organizations involved in its design, implementation and monitoring. The International Trade Union Confederation was ready to do its part to promote decent work and social protection as part of the 2030 Agenda. Second, an enabling environment was needed. That entailed recognition of civil society organizations as development actors, strengthening of democracy and social dialogue, and concrete commitments to human rights standards. Lastly, international frameworks on trade and taxation were required to give countries of the South the necessary fiscal space to pursue development. The pressure placed on developing countries for trade and fiscal liberalization limited their policy space, and tax evasion resulted in enormous losses of money that could otherwise be invested in the Sustainable Development Goals.

126. **Mr. Chediek** (Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation) said that a matrix for measuring the impact of South-South cooperation was important. The fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would provide a good opportunity to develop a matrix: by then the follow-up mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goals would be established and more South-South cooperation would have taken place, both of which would make it easier to create a suitable measurement framework, which must assess qualitative as well as quantitative elements.

127. The annual Global South-South Development Expo also provided a good opportunity for stakeholders to see what South-South cooperation activities were taking place. He recommended that participants should attend the 2016 Expo in Dubai.

128. **Mr. Almino** (Director, Brazilian Agency for Cooperation) said that developing countries shared best practices because they knew what worked from their experience, which also enabled them to share failures, mistakes and challenges. In the experience of Brazil in South-South cooperation, countries were not donors and recipients but partners, and national priorities were respected.

129. While it was more important to measure qualitative elements than quantitative ones, the latter should also be measured. However, it was necessary to carefully consider what should be measured and how: it was hard to place a value on lives saved, for example. Developing countries should themselves define the parameters and indicators for South-South cooperation. In December 2015 Brazil had proposed a matrix for South-South cooperation that might serve as the basis for a discussion on evaluation.

130. Triangular cooperation was worthwhile despite the challenges it entailed, such as the need to harmonize distinct conceptual principles and practices, and to effectively share governance of the development process.

131. **Mr. Ayante** (Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Somalia) said that there

should be more regional cooperation as countries in one region tended to face the same problems but independently develop solutions, which could usefully be shared. Secondly, the mainstreaming of trade into South-South cooperation would help to level the playing field and support development. Thirdly, there was a need for economic cooperation in key areas such as multinational enterprises, statistics and financing. Lastly, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation should prepare a platform for knowledge- and experience-sharing.

132. **Ms. Casar** (Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico), summing up, said that the importance of South-South cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda made further discussion imperative. There were various forums coming up in the next two years that would allow time for actors to reach a consensus on how to quantify the results of South-South cooperation.

The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.